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Candace Havens
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MINUTES OF MEETING: **Auburndale Historic District Commission**

DATE: **June 10, 2014**

PLACE/TIME: **Newton City Hall, Room 202, 7:30 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE: **Italo Visco, Chair**
 Patricia Bottomley, Member
 Nancy Grissom, Member
 Mark Armstrong, Alternate
 Barbara Kurze, Commission Staff
 See attendance list

ABSENT: **Richard Alfred, Member**
 Patricia Baker, Member
 Rodney Barker, Member

Marc Fournier, Director of Plant Operations and Sustainability for Lasell College, requested direction from Commission members regarding a proposed window replacement project at 155 Woodland Road (Plummer House.) M. Fournier provided a hard copy of photographs of the elevations and the windows which would be replaced. M. Fournier noted that the windows on the front (north elevation) had been replaced with wood clad, true divided light windows and that existing windows on the back (south elevation) and sides (southeast, northeast and west elevations) were Harvey vinyl windows; he also stated that the southeast elevation was not visible but that the northeast elevation and west elevations might be visible. M. Fournier stated that the intent was to match the existing two over two vinyl Harvey windows with thermal panes and to remove the storm windows. Commission members I. Visco and N. Grissom stated that any original windows should be matched and that the two over two bay windows looked original. I. Visco and N. Grissom also noted that simulated divided lights were preferable and that the Commission would need to review any proposed replacements that would be visible.

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. with Italo Visco presiding as Chair. Voting permanent members included P. Bottomley, N. Grissom, and I. Visco. Alternate member M. Armstrong also voted. B. Kurze, Senior Preservation Planner, acted as recording secretary and the meeting was digitally recorded on an H2 device.

216 Woodland Road – Certificate of Appropriateness

Marc Fournier, Director of Plant Operations and Sustainability, and architect Dan Eldredge of Eck|MacNeely Architects, represented the owner for the review of the application to install a freestanding bus shelter. D. Eldredge presented the proposed project. The bus shelter would be located within the U-shaped building, nestled in the back.

Materials Reviewed:*Assessor's Map**Photographs**Site Plan**Elevations**Materials*

N. Grissom asked which buses would stop there; M. Fournier stated that it would be the campus shuttle which was a short bus. M. Fournier noted that the proposed bus shelter location would be a safer place to stop and that 216 Woodland was the largest residence hall at Lasell College. M. Armstrong motioned to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application as submitted. N. Grissom seconded the motion. This motion was passed unanimously.

RECORD OF ACTION:**DATE:** June 10, 2014**SUBJECT:** 216 Woodland Road - Certificate of Appropriateness

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on June 10, 2014 the Auburndale Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0,

RESOLVED to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application as submitted at 216 Woodland Road to build a freestanding bus shelter.

Voting in the Affirmative:**Italo Visco, Chair****Patricia Bottomley, Member****Nancy Grissom, Member****Mark Armstrong, Alternate****Lasell College, Woodland Road – Certificate of Appropriateness**

Lasell College President Michael Alexander, Director of Plant Operations and Sustainability Marc Fournier, and architect Dan Eldredge of Eck|MacNeely Architects, were present for the review of the application to install 11 posts for banners along Woodland Road.

M. Alexander reviewed past projects where Lasell College had partnered with the City of Newton to improve the Woodland Road streetscape. These included a very successful project that improved the sidewalks and curbs, and a proposed project to put the utilities underground which was not supported by the utility companies. M. Alexander noted that the proposed project was initiated by the student body as a way to define the campus and to demonstrate institutional pride.

Materials Reviewed:*Assessor's Map**Photographs**Site Plan**Post Details**Materials*

I. Visco asked how the banner posts would be used and how the banner design and content would be controlled. N. Grissom asked how long the banners would be displayed. M. Alexander stated that the banners

would be continuously displayed and were intended to brand Lasell College. I. Visco noted that he would be concerned if the banners would be used to advertise events; however, he did not want to hide the fact that the school was at that location and he believed that it was appropriate to show that the school was there and to give it a central focus. I. Visco commented that the change should be sympathetic; the posts and banners should be an appropriate size and height. D. Eldredge noted that the proposed post design mirrored the historic district sign post. N. Grissom commented that there seemed to be a lot of posts; D. Eldredge stated that a total of 11 posts were proposed.

M. Armstrong stated that there were several questions that needed to be answered: 1) was the signage appropriate and effective; 2) was the number of signs appropriate; 3) was it appropriate to brand Lasell College on Woodland Road; and 4) was the existing signage at an appropriate level?

D. Eldredge stated that the posts would be set five feet off the sidewalk; N. Grissom commented that the setback would minimize the effect. M. Alexander noted that they intended to draw attention away from the utilities.

M. Armstrong expressed concern that this would be privatizing a public way; M. Alexander noted that Woodland Road was the primary pedestrian way for Lasell College. P. Bottomley noted that there were private homes on this stretch of Woodland and they might feel excluded. I. Visco acknowledged that there should be a balance between public versus private, and commented that it was appropriate for Lasell College to make their presence known. N. Grissom noted that banner posts were approved at the Jackson School; however, those posts were much lower than the proposed and the banners were quite large. D. Eldredge stated that the banners would be three feet and six inches.

Discussion ensued as to what would be an effective execution of the banner posts. M. Armstrong expressed concern that the posts would be hidden behind utilities and trees on the north side of Woodland Road; D. Eldredge noted that the setback was driven by the telephone poles and utilities. M. Armstrong asked how the posts would fit in with the building signs. Commission members gave examples of well-executed identification signs on the Brown University and Wesleyan campuses; and proposed a more subtle repetition or frequency. M. Armstrong proposed using the existing utility poles or placing another type of sign along the same plane as the utility poles on the north side, and only using the "historic" posts on the south side; this could minimize the visual clutter.

I. Visco requested a mock-up of the post and N. Grissom requested that the mock-up include a banner. I. Visco stated that once the post and banner were set up, the Commission members could view the mock-up and the discussion could be continued at the next regularly scheduled meeting. N. Grissom noted that students could also give their feedback.

N. Grissom motioned that the Commission members would view a mock-up of the proposed post and banner and to continue discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting. M. Armstrong seconded the motion. This motion was passed unanimously.

RECORD OF ACTION:

DATE: June 10, 2014

SUBJECT: Lasell College, Woodland Road - Certificate of Appropriateness

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on June 10, 2014 the Auburndale Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0,

RESOLVED to view a mock-up of the proposed post and banner, and to continue discussion in a future regularly scheduled meeting the application submitted at Lasell College, Woodland Road to install posts for banners.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Italo Visco, Chair

Patricia Bottomley, Member

Nancy Grissom, Member

Mark Armstrong, Alternate

Administrative Discussion

Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the May 2014 minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Recorded by Barbara Kurze, Senior Preservation Planner